

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /060 W
----- 085716

P R 261014Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 297

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 8851

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: TEXT OF UK PAPER ON "ORGANISATION
OF WORK DURING THE OPENING PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS."

LIMDIS - MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

FOLLOWING TEXT WAS CIRCULATED BY UK AT OCTOBER 25, 1973
MEETING OF AD HOC GROUP. SCHEDULE AT END WAS CHANGED (FULL
DETAILS SEPTEL) TO LIST PLENARY SESSIONS TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
MORNINGS, AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY AFTER-
NOONS TO PREPARE FOR FOLLOWING MORNING'S PLENARY, AND AD HOC
GROUP MEETINGS TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AFTERNOONS TO FOLLOW UP ON
PLENARIES AND BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR FOLLOWING PLENARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

ORGANISATION OF WORK DURING THE OPENING PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS
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THE PROBLEM

1. FOR THE EFFECTIVE CONDUCT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS OPENING ON 30 OCTOBER, THE AD HOC GROUP WILL NEED TO CONSIDER IN ADVANCE AND DECIDE UPON:-

(I) THE ORGANISATION OF ITS OWN CONSULTATIONS, PREPARATORY AND ANALYTICAL WORK, REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL ETC;

(II) THE PATTERN OF PLENARY MEETINGS AT WHICH WE SHOULD AIM, AND HOW THESE CAN BEST BE DOVETAILED INTO THE PATTERN OF OTHER WORK;

(III) HOW BEST TO PROVIDE TIME FOR BILATERAL AND OTHER INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS AND DISCUSSION.

ONCE THE GROUP HAS TAKEN DECISIONS ON THESE POINTS, THE ALLIES WILL NEED TO BROACH THE SUBJECT WITH THE WARSAW PACT WITH A VIEW TO SECURING THEIR AGREEMENT TO A SATISFACTORY PATTERN OF PLENARY MEETINGS.

AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS

2. IT IS FORESEEN THAT THE AD HOC GROUP'S WORK WILL FALL INTO FIVE MAIN CATEGORY OF PLENARY MEETINGS: AGREEMENT ON THE

SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED, HOW AND BY WHOM THEY SHOULD BE RAISED, DISCUSSION OF DRAFT SPEECHES ETC;

(B) ANALYSIS OF, AND REACTION TO, PROCEEDINGS AT PRECEDING PLENARY MEETINGS;

(C) DISCUSSION OF INFORMATION GATHERED DURING BILATERAL CONTACTS;

(D) GENERAL TACTICAL HANDLING OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, PRESS RELATIONS ETC;

(E) DRAFTING AND APPROVAL OF REPORTS TO THE COUNCIL, BOTH ORAL AND WRITTEN.

3. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT A REGULAR PATTERN OF AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS TO DEAL WITH THESE DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES WOULD HELP DELEGATIONS TO PLAN THEIR WORK AND RECEIVE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS; AND WOULD FACILITATE THE TASK OF THE CHAIRMAN IN FRAMING THE WEEK'S PROGRAMME OF BUSINESS.

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4. WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED AT A BUSINESS-LIKE PACE. AT THE SAME TIME WE MUST ENSURE THAT THE PACE SET ALLOWS THE AD HOC GROUP ADEQUATE TIME TO WORK WITH DUE REGARD TO THE IMPORTANCE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT TIME IS ALLOWED FOR THE NECESSARY INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS, BOTH WITHIN NATO AND WITH THE EAST. WE MUST SEEK TO ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF MEETINGS THAT SATISFIES BOTH THESE CONSIDERATIONS. (PROVISION MAY EVENTUALLY HAVE TO

BE MADE FOR ANY WORKING GROUPS THAT ARE ESTABLISHED, BUT
THIS LIES OUTSIDE THE TIMESCALE OF THIS PRESENT PAPER.)

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-10 PM-03 INR-10 NSC-10 NSCE-00

CIAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01 /060 W
----- 085403

P R 261014Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 298
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNMR SHAPE
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LIMDIS-MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

PLENARY MEETINGS

5. IN ATTEMPTING TO ARRIVE AT A WEEKLY PATTERN OF AD HOC GROUP
MEETINGS TO BE FOLLOWED DURING THE INITIAL PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS
IT IS FIRST NECESSARY TO DETERMINE THE DESIRABLE FREQUENCY OF
PLENARY MEETINGS.

6. THE ALLIES HAVE DECIDED IN C-M(73)83 (FINAL), PARAGRAPH
58(I)(B) THAT "PLENARY MEETINGS SHOULD TAKE PLACE AT REGULAR
AND FREQUENT INTERVALS, E.G. ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS DURING ACTIVE
NEGOTIATIONS, IF POSSIBLE ON A SPECIFIED DAY." IN CONSIDERING
WHAT PATTERN WE SHOULD AIM AT, WE HAVE TAKEN THIS AS THE MINIMUM
ALLIED REQUIREMENT.

7. THE AD HOC GROUP HAS FURTHER DECIDED THAT, IF TWO MEMBERS
WANT A PLENARY MEETING TO BE CONVENED, THE GROUP AS A WHOLE WILL
SUPPORT THE REQUEST.

8. THE FINAL REPORT OF THE AD HOC GROUP AT THE END OF THE
EXPLORATORY TALKS (DATED 28 JUNE 1973) CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING
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PASSAGE:-

"12 (B) EQUALLY, THE QUESTION OF WHOSE RIGHT IT IS TO
CALL PLENARY MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO BE FURTHER
DISCUSSED IN NATO. IN THE QUADRILATERAL MEETING
REPORTED IN PARA 5 ABOVE, ON JUNE 27, THE SOVIET
AND DGR REPRESENTATIVES, SPEAKING FOR WARSAW PACT
STATES, STATED THEIR VIEW THAT, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMA-
TION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, PLENARIES SHOULD
BE CALLED WHENEVER REQUESTED. ON JUNE 28 THEY
AMPLIFIED THIS BY STATING AS THE VIEW OF THE EASTERN
GROUP (EXCEPT ROMANIA) THAT ANY DIRECT PARTICIPANT
SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CONVENE A PLENARY WHENEVER
HE WISHED. THE CHAIRMAN DID NOT SPECIFY NATO
PREFERENCES IN THIS CONTEXT BUT ONLY STATED THAT HE
WOULD INFORM HIS PARTNERS IN THE ALLIANCE".

(DURING THE QUADRILATERAL MEETING ON JUNE 27, THE SOVIET AND GDR
REPRESENTATIVES HAD SAID THAT THE RIGHT TO CALL A PLENARY
WOULD BE EXERCISED BY THE DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AS A SPECIFIC
APPLICATION OF DECISION MAKING AS LAID DOWN IN THE RECORD OF
THE 14 MAY PLENARY.) IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE WARSAW PACT WILL
RETURN TO THIS QUESTION ONCE NEGOTIATIONS BEGIN.

PATTERN OF PLENARY AND AD HOC MEETINGS

9. WHATEVER THE IMMEDIATE PATTERN OF PLENARY MEETINGS, IT IS
IMPORTANT THAT THE AD HOC GROUP AND ITS MEMBERS SHOULD BE ABLE
TO CARRY OUT THEIR WORK AS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE WITH
THOROUGHNESS AND MAKING DUE ALLOWANCE FOR CONSULTATION WITH
CAPITALS AND (WHEN APPROPRIATE) WITH THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL.
IT IS THEREFORE PROPOSED THAT

(I) AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF
PLENARIES SHOULD FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY UPON THE PLENARY
MEETINGS CONCERNED AND SHOULD BE KEPT AS SHORT AS
POSSIBLE;

(II) ALL OTHER REGULAR AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS SHOULD BE HELD
IN THE MORNINGS ONLY;

(III) ONE DAY IN EACH WEEK SHOULD AS FAR AS POSSIBLE BE KEPT
ENTIRELY FREE BOTH OF PLENARIES AND OF REGULAR
MEETINGS OF THE AD HOC GROUP;

(IV) SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS AND AUSTRIAN PUBLIC HOLIDAYS
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SHOULD AS A GENERAL RULE ALSO BE KEPT FREE OF
SCHEDULED MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE UNDERSTOOD
THAT THEY COULD IN EMERGENCIES BE USED FOR AD HOC
GROUP MEETINGS.

AT A LATER STAGE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, IF ONE OR MORE WORKING
GROUPS ARE SET UP, IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO MODIFY THE CHOSEN
PATTERN OF PLENARY AND AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS IN ORDER TO CATER
FOR SUCH GROUPS.

10. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO ESTIMATE FOR MORE
THAN A VERY SHORT PERIOD AHEAD WHAT THE RIGHT PATTERN OF
PLENARY MEETINGS IS LIKELY TO BE. BUT THE GROUPS MAY CONSIDER
THAT IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE DURING THE OPENING PERIOD OF
NEGOTIATIONS TO ESTABLISH A FAIRLY FREQUENT PATTERN OF PLENARY
MEETINGS, BEARING IN MIND THE NEED TO DEMONSTRATE TO PRESS AND
PUBLIC OPINION THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING IN A
PURPOSEFUL AND BUSINESSLIKE MANNER, AND THAT THERE WILL
PROBABLY BE SUFFICIENT BUSINESS TO JUSTIFY THIS. AS THE TALKS
SETTLE DOWN TO A MORE STEADY PACE, IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO
REDUCE THE FREQUENCY OF PLENARY MEETINGS.

13. ONCE A SCHEDULE HAS BEEN AGREED WITH THE WARSAW PACT,
THE CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT WILL NEED TO BE INFORMED OF THE DAYS
ON WHICH FIXED PLENARIES ARE TO BE HELD IN ORDER THAT THE
NECESSARY PREPARATIONS (INTERPRETATION, SECRETARIAL, SECURITY
ETC) CAN BE PUT IN HAND

SCHEDULE

MONDAY A.M. AD HOC GROUP
P.M. ---
TUESDAY A.M. AD HOC GROUP PREPARATORY FOR
 AFTERNOON PLENARY
P.M. (PLENARY
 (AD HOC GROUP FOLLOW-UP MEETING
WEDNESDAY A.M. AD HOC GROUP
P.M. ---
THURSDAY A.M. AD HOC GROUP PREPARATORY FOR
 AFTERNOON PLENARY
P.M. (PLENARY
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(AD HOC FOLLOW-UP MEETING
FRIDAY A.M. --
P.M.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ALL MORNING MEETINGS BEGIN AT 10:30 A.M.,
AND THAT THE AFTERNOON PLENARY BEGINS AT 3:00 P.M.

END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA08851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS HUME
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973108/aaaaafgf.tel
Line Count: 279
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: TEXT OF UK PAPER ON "ORGANISATION OF WORK DURING THE OPENING PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS."
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005